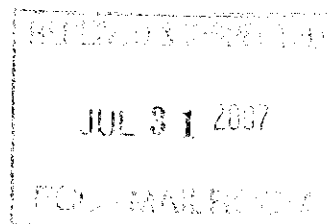


PO Box 2027 • Minot, ND 58702  
701-858-1200 • 1-800-737-9130

DOCKET FOR COPY ORIGINAL

July 24, 2007

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Office of the Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Room TW-B204  
Washington, DC 20554



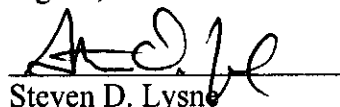
Re: USF Certification – FCC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Ms. Dortch,

Enclosed for filing in FCC Docket No. 96-45 is an Essential Telecommunications Carrier Certification and Exhibit A certifying that all universal service support will only be used by the undersigned carrier for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended.

The undersigned carrier has also filed this Essential Telecommunications Carrier Certification and Exhibit A with the North Dakota Public Service Commission, and it is anticipated that the North Dakota Public Service Commission will also certify by October 1, 2007 that the undersigned carrier will only use said universal service support for its intended purpose. However, because of the importance of this issue, and the fast-approaching certification deadline of October 1, 2007, the undersigned carrier is also providing certification directly to the Federal Communications Commission to ensure that the undersigned carrier continues to receive the universal service support for which it is eligible.

Signed,



Steven D. Lysne  
CEO/General Manager

Date: 7/24/07

North Dakota Network Company    North Dakota    389004

Enclosure

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## **ANNUAL REPORT TO THE NORTH DAKOTA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

### **ESSENTIAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER CERTIFICATION**

The undersigned, on behalf of the telecommunications company named below (the Company), does hereby state and certify, as follows:

1. The Company will provide service on a timely basis to requesting customers within the Company's designated service area where the Company's network already passes the potential customer's premises, and

2. The Company will provide service, within a reasonable period of time, if the potential customer is within the Company's designated service area but outside the Company's existing network coverage, if service can be provided at a reasonable cost by:

- a. Modifying or replacing the requesting customer's equipment;
- b. Deploying a roof-mounted antenna or other equipment;
- c. Adjusting the nearest cell tower;
- d. Adjusting network or customer facilities;
- e. Reselling services from another carrier's facilities to provide service;  
or
- f. Employing, leasing, or constructing an additional cell site, cell extender, repeater, or other similar equipment.

3. The Company is able to remain functional in emergency situations and has a reasonable amount of back-up power to ensure functionality without an external power source, is able to reroute traffic around damaged facilities, and is capable of managing traffic spikes resulting from emergency situations.

4. The Company is satisfying and will satisfy applicable consumer protection and service quality standards. (If wireless service is involved, the Company has and will comply with the Cellular Telecommunications and Internet Association's Consumer Code for wireless service. If a wireless service complies with another standard, that is explained herein.)

5. If the Company is a non-incumbent local exchange carrier, it will offer a local usage plan comparable to the one offered by the incumbent local exchange carrier in the designated service area.

6. The Company acknowledges that the North Dakota Public Service Commission (the Commission) may require it to provide equal access to long distance carriers in the event that no other eligible telecommunications carrier is providing equal access within the proposed designated service area. (If wireless carriage is involved, the Company acknowledges that the Federal Communications Commission may require the *Company to provide equal access to long distance carriers in the event no other eligible telecommunications carrier is providing equal access within the designated service area.*)

7. The Company has met and will meet the requirements of eligible telecommunications carrier advertising. This includes:

- a. A full description of available services in the Company's official telephone directory, including the process to be used by customers to qualify for lifeline and link-up service.
- b. Advertising of the availability of universal service in media of general circulation in the Company's designated service area. Availability may be advertised in newspapers, company newsletters, company or civic internet sites, bill stuffers, direct mailings, or other means intended to convey availability throughout the designated service area.

#### **Exhibit A Information**

The following information is provided in Exhibit A attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference:

1. A description of the amount of high-cost universal service support received by the Company in the prior calendar year and a description of how that support was used for the provision, maintenance, or upgrading of the Company's facilities and services. (An explanation of any changes from reports previously provided to the Commission is also included.)

2. An estimate of the amount of federal high-cost universal service support the Company anticipates receiving in the following calendar year (the calendar year following this report) and a description of how that support is projected to be used for the provision, maintenance, or upgrading of the Company's facilities and services pursuant to Section 254 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

3. Exhibit A also contains, for the prior calendar year and the subsequent calendar year (the calendar year following this report), identification of specific construction or upgrade projects; a description of how service will be improved by each project; the start date and completion date for each improvement; the amount of investment for cash improvement; the specific geographic area where each improvement was made or will be made; and the estimated population that will be served by each improvement. (For an

incumbent local exchange carrier (ILEC), this information is submitted at the study area level. For another eligible carrier, this information is submitted at the study area level of the ILEC. If a study area level or designated service area includes geographic areas in more than one state, the information is also submitted at the North Dakota level.)

4. Detailed information of any outage, as that term is defined in 47 C.F.R. § 4.5, of at least thirty (30) minutes in duration for each designated service area for any facilities the Company owns, operates, leases, or otherwise utilizes that potentially affect:

- a. At least ten percent (10%) of the end users served in a designated service area, or
- b. A 911 special facility, as defined in 47 C.F.R. § 4.5(e).

This report includes:

- a. The date and time of the onset of the outage,
- b. A brief description of the outage and its resolution,
- c. The particular services affected,
- d. The geographic areas affected by the outage,
- e. Steps taken to prevent a similar outage in the future, and
- f. The number of customers affected.

(If applicable, a copy of the FCC outage report that includes this information may be attached.)

5. The number of requests for service from potential customers within the designated service area that were unfilled during the past year. A detail of how the Company attempted to provide service to those potential customers is also included.

6. The number of complaints per thousand handsets or lines.

I hereby certify that the above information is true and correct and is submitted on behalf of the Company named below. The information is submitted in the year 2007.

North Dakota Network Co.  
Company

By: AE D. J. Mc  
Its: CEO / 6/7

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**EXHIBIT A**

**NORTH DAKOTA NETWORK CO.**

The amount of high-cost universal support North Dakota Network Co. received in the prior calendar year and estimate of high-cost universal support North Dakota Network Co. anticipates receiving in the next calendar year (the calendar year ending on the date of this report) are listed below:

**Year 2006 Federal Universal Service Receipts:**

High Cost Loop Support	\$ 260,445
Local Switching Support	\$ 233,199
Interstate Common Line Support	\$ 797,964
Safety Net Additive Support	\$ 0
Safety Valve Loop Cost Adjustment	\$ 0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 1,291,608</b>

**Estimated Year 2008 Federal Universal Service Receipts:**

High Cost Loop Support	\$ 200,000
Local Switching Support	\$ 250,000
Interstate Common Line Support	\$ 850,000
Safety Net Additive Support	\$ 0
Safety Valve Loop Cost Adjustment	\$ 0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 1,300,000</b>

The changes, if any, from reports previously filed with the Commission are, as follows:  
(For 2007, there are none. This is the first reporting year.)

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**Prior Year's Support (2006).** The ways this support from the prior calendar year was used for the provision, maintenance and upgrading of North Dakota Network Co.'s facilities and services are, as follows:

	Actual 2006
<b>Specific Operations Expenses</b>	
Network support (Accts 6110-16)	\$ 0
Local support (Accts 6120-24)	\$ 9,484
Office (Accts 6210-6232)	\$ 506,219
Land and wire facilities (Accts 6410-41)	\$ 46,957
Network operations (Accts 6530-35)	\$ 146,779
Depreciation and amortization (Accts 6560-65)	\$2,978,231
<b>Other Operations Expenses</b>	
Other services (Accts 6620-23)	\$ 330,609
<b>State Operations Expenses</b>	
Investment and planning (Accts 6710-12)	\$ 1,348
Legal and administrative (Accts 6720-28)	\$ 81,037
<b>Years Supported Expenses, Before on Investment</b>	<b>\$4,100,664</b>
<b>Transmissions</b>	
Long distance (Acct 2210)	\$4,242,319
Land and wire (Acct 2410)	\$ 0
	<b>\$4,242,319</b>
<b>Years Supported Expenditures, Before on Investment</b>	<b>\$8,342,983</b>

North Dakota Network Co.'s 2006 specific construction or upgrade projects are listed, as follows:

(All information is submitted at the study area level of the ILEC.)

If a study area or designated service area includes geographic areas in more than one state, the information is provided at the North Dakota level.)

Construction Upgrade Project Name	Start Date	Completion Date	Amount of Investment	Geographic Area of Improvement	Estimated Population Served by Improvement	Description of How Service Will Be Improved
Outage (4)	Apr 06	Nov 06	\$1,259,154	SRT Communications, Inc. Study Area	Entire BTA299 116,000	Greater coverage 299. Fills coverage area.
ed Service	May 06	Oct 06	\$ 185,210	All ILEC Study Areas in BTA 299	Entire BTA299 116,000	Enhanced service to all PCS subscribers
Data s	Apr 06	Dec 06	\$1,103,922	All ILEC Study Areas in BTA 299	Entire BTA299 116,000	Offer wireless subscribers - service offering
Messaging ion	Dec 06	Dec 06	\$ 49,724	All ILEC Study Areas in BTA 299	Entire BTA299 116,000	Enhanced Text Services
tors (3)	Nov 06	Dec 06	\$ 74,419	All ILEC Study Areas in BTA 299	Entire BTA299 116,000	Service reliability subscribers
Outage (2)	Apr 06	Nov 06	\$ 481,520	Reservation Telephone Coop Study Area	Entire BTA299 116,000	Greater coverage 299, expands scopes, and f coverage area.
Outage (1)	Apr 06	Nov 06	\$ 279,464	North Dakota Telephone Company Study Area	Entire BTA299 116,000	Greater coverage 299, expands scopes, and f coverage area.



Buildout (1)	Apr 06	Nov 06	\$ 289,720	West River Telecom Study Area	Entire BTA299 116,000	Greater cover 299, expands scope, and fi coverage area.
Buildout (1)	Apr 06	Nov 06	\$ 289,720	Turtle Mountain Communications Study Area	Entire BTA299 116,000	Greater cover 299, expands scope, and fi coverage area.
el Element Card tions	Jul 06	Jul 06	\$ 229,466	All ILEC Study Areas in BTA 299	Entire BTA299 116,000	Enhance capa in a cell site
006 Actual			\$ 4,242,319			

**Following Year's Support (2008).** The ways North Dakota Network Co. anticipates it will use the following calendar year for the provision, maintenance, or upgrading of North Dakota Network Co.'s facilities and services are, as follows:

	Estimated 2008
<b>Specific Operations Expenses</b>	
Network support (Accts 6110-16)	\$ 0
Local support (Accts 6120-24)	\$ 10,000
Office (Accts 6210-6232)	\$ 532,000
Land and wire facilities (Accts 6410-41)	\$ 49,000
Network operations (Accts 6530-35)	\$ 154,000
Depreciation and amortization (Accts 6560-65)	\$3,127,000
<b>Other Operations Expenses</b>	
Other services (Accts 6620-23)	\$ 347,000
<b>Capital Operations Expenses</b>	
Investment and planning (Accts 6710-12)	\$ 1,000
Land and administrative (Accts 6720-28)	\$ 85,000
<b>Years Supported Expenses, Before on Investment</b>	<b>\$4,305,000</b>
<b>Investments</b>	
Investment (Acct 2210)	\$2,675,000
Land and wire (Acct 2410)	\$ 0
	<b>\$2,675,000</b>
<b>Years Supported Expenditures, Before on Investment</b>	<b>\$6,980,000</b>

North Dakota Network Co.'s 2008 estimated construction or upgrade projects are listed, as follows:

All information is submitted at the study area level of the ILEC.)

If a study area or designated service area includes geographic areas in more than one state, the information is provided at the North Dakota level.)

Construction Upgrade Project Name	Start Date	Completion Date	Amount of Investment	Geographic Area of Improvement	Estimated Population Served by Improvement	Description of How Service Will Be Improved
Buildouts (5)	Apr 08	Nov 08	\$1,750,000	SRT Communications Inc. Study Area	Entire BTA299 116,000	Greater coverage in expands local calling fills gap(s) in coverage
Switch	Jan 08	Jan 08	\$ 200,000	All ILEC Study Areas in BTA 299	Entire BTA299 116,000	Routine upgrade switch
	Jan 08	Dec 08	\$ 300,000	All ILEC Study Areas in BTA 299	Entire BTA299 116,000	Faster, more enhanced internet
Transmitters	Nov 08	Dec 08	\$ 75,000	All ILEC Study Areas in BTA 299	Entire BTA299 116,000	Service reliability for subscribers
Buildout (1)	Apr 08	Nov 08	\$ 350,000	Turtle Mountain Communications Study Area	Entire BTA299 116,000	Greater coverage in expands, local calling fills gap(s) in coverage
2008			\$2,675,000			

**Outages.** Detailed information of any outages, as that term is defined in 47 C.F.R. § 4.5, of at least thirty (30) minutes of each designated service area for any facility which North Dakota Network Co. owns, operates, leases, or otherwise potentially affect: **No outages occurred that met the definition of 47.C.F.R. § 4.5.**

a. At least ten percent (10%) of the end users served in a designated service area, or

b. A 911 special facility, as defined in 47 C.F.R. § 45(e).

[illegible]

(If FCC outage reports were filed showing this information, they may be attached instead.)

8. The number of requests for service from potential customers within the designated service area that were unfilled the past year was: **Unsure of the specific number of requests, but if a customer questions why his/her phone does not have signal in a certain area, SRT reviews the location to determine if there is a coverage gap. It may be a low spot, environment obstacles, or an unfeasible spot for a cell site.**

The ways in which the Company attempted to provide services to these potential customers are, as follows:

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9. The number of complaints per one thousand handsets or lines was: **Less than 1%**